

Block walls must be made more carefully than stone walls, as the slightest irregularity will be noticed, but the blocks are easier to line up than uneven stone.

Hollow blocks have the advantage that if they are placed correctly on top of each other, reinforcing rods can be inserted after the wall has been built and concrete poured in to finish the job.

Blocks can also be used for making a "dry wall", described later, when their uniformity of size and shape enables their placing to be more secure than uneven stone.

Brick Walls

Though brick walls are formal, they fit into the garden much better than concrete walls. They should be well made and if strength is required, this can be provided by buttresses, which do not look out of place in this type of construction.

Brick walls can be made in pattern in the same way as concrete blocks; any change from the normal will make the wall more interesting.

If steps are made between the terraces, they will look more attractive if made in brick also.

Timber Walls

Wooden walls are more temporary than the others dealt with, but if soundly made will last for some years.

Both sawn and rough logs may be used. Preserving treatment will prove well worth while before their use.

The timber is generally placed horizontally in even lengths, being joined behind the posts.

Placing of the posts is most important. They must be strong and set deep enough to hold the weight of the soil pressing against the wall. A batter of 3 in. per foot of height will ease the strain on the posts.

Timber walls can often be made cheaply after completion of a concrete dwelling, as the boxing can be used.

An advantage is that drainage will be better provided for than in a solid wall.

Corrugated Iron Walls

Second-hand corrugated iron can be used for walls in the same way as timber. More supporting posts, however, should be used, as iron sheets may bend in the centre under pressure and if that happens, it is a major job to get them back in position again.

The iron should be treated before use with a rust killing preparation. Bituminous roof paints are excellent and provide a good seal on the side into the soil.

Timber and iron walls are temporary only.

Dry Walls

Dry walls are made of stones packed with soil and no cement or mortar is used to bind them. Concrete blocks are now also used for this type of wall, but as the effect in the garden and method of use are quite different, they are dealt with separately.

Dry walls of stone are satisfactory only for low walls. In most places they are very expensive to erect, as a great many stones of good quality are required. The only justification for this type of wall is that it is possible to plant between the stones, but maintenance costs today are so high that they are seldom built.

As with other permanent walls the foundations must be solid and drainage must not be able to weaken it. A tile drain may therefore be needed on the back of a wall to take away any seepage which may come down through the naturally sloping subsoil. Its unstable nature makes it much more prone to collapse under pressure than a solid wall.

The stones should be fairly large and rough to ensure a good grip. Quarried and split stones are the best, but even then it may be necessary to shape them to make them fit firmly. River and beach stones are generally not suitable, as their smoothness prevents them from being placed securely.

A batter of 3 in. per foot of height should be given and the largest stones should be used at the bottom of the wall. Each stone should be laid so that any movement is backward, where the soil will prevent it from slipping, but, generally, movement should be prevented by a firm packing of soil and smaller stones.

Good garden soil should be used in the wall to sustain the plants grown in it. It is possible to plant while the wall is being constructed and the roots can then be spread out in the soil between the stones, but of course, it must be the right season.

The stones on top should be as securely fitted as the others and large



On this wall of stone slabs a few trailing plants make it interesting without altering its character.

enough that they cannot be dislodged by children.

It is much simpler to construct a wall of concrete blocks, or evenly shaped stone because the blocks or evenly shaped stone can be placed firmly on each other, the joining surfaces can be reduced and a patterned interval allowed. This reduces the weight of a wall and gives greater flexibility. Block walls, or crib walls, can therefore be built higher than other types of wall without reinforcing. Proof of their strength is that such walls are used in road construction, where safety is of paramount importance.

Construction of a very open crib wall is illustrated. Crib walls are sometimes attempted in brick, but the weight and size of the bricks are not enough to anchor them securely.

Providing Plant Cover

No matter how attractive a wall may be in itself, its appearance will be improved when the outline has been softened with plants. They can be used trailing from the top as well as growing at the base. Dry walls, of course, provide much greater scope, as plants can be rooted between the stones. However, there is a danger that perennial weeds may be intro-